



Hands on Habitat

State of South Carolina

What Are the Problems?

- **Coastal wetlands** Thousands of acres have been lost and explosive development poses increased threats. By 2020, 500,000 new residents are expected to move to the coast, developing 417 square miles of coastal land.
- **Native oyster population** The state has seen drastic declines in historic harvest; 30% of current shellfish areas are permanently closed.
- **Migratory fish** Important migratory fish runs have declined due to river and stream barriers that block access to vital habitat.

Background

The State of South Carolina ranks fourth nationally in acres of salt marsh. These marshes, along with thousands of miles of rivers and creeks, provide productive and diverse habitats for finfish, shellfish, and other wildlife. As impacts associated with an increase in population take hold, the restoration needs in South Carolina continue to increase.

What We Do

- Rebuild native oyster reefs
- Restore tidal wetlands
- Modify culverts
- Establish wetland buffers
- Remove hardened shorelines and replace with habitat-friendly protection techniques
- Construct fishways or remove dams to restore fish passage
- Educate communities about the value of habitat and restoration

How We Do It

NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP) achieves science-based habitat restoration through community involvement and stewardship. We build powerful partnerships among South Carolina's public, private, and non-profit organizations. Our projects continually



demonstrate the effectiveness and benefits of locally based habitat conservation throughout coastal South Carolina.

Our Accomplishments

Since 1999, we have:

- Awarded roughly \$275,000 and leveraged more than \$350,000
- Managed \$105,000 in Congressionally directed funds
- Funded 9 projects
- Completed 5 projects
- Restored 50 acres of habitat
- Engaged roughly 2,500 volunteers for 13,000 service hours through partnered activities

Our Partners

NOAA works with 15 local, private, and public partners in South Carolina, including the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Conservation Association of South Carolina, and Friends of Huntington Beach State Park.

Our Focus

Manage and counter-balance coastal zone impacts that threaten South Carolina's productive fish habitats

Contact

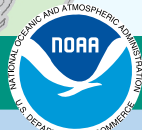
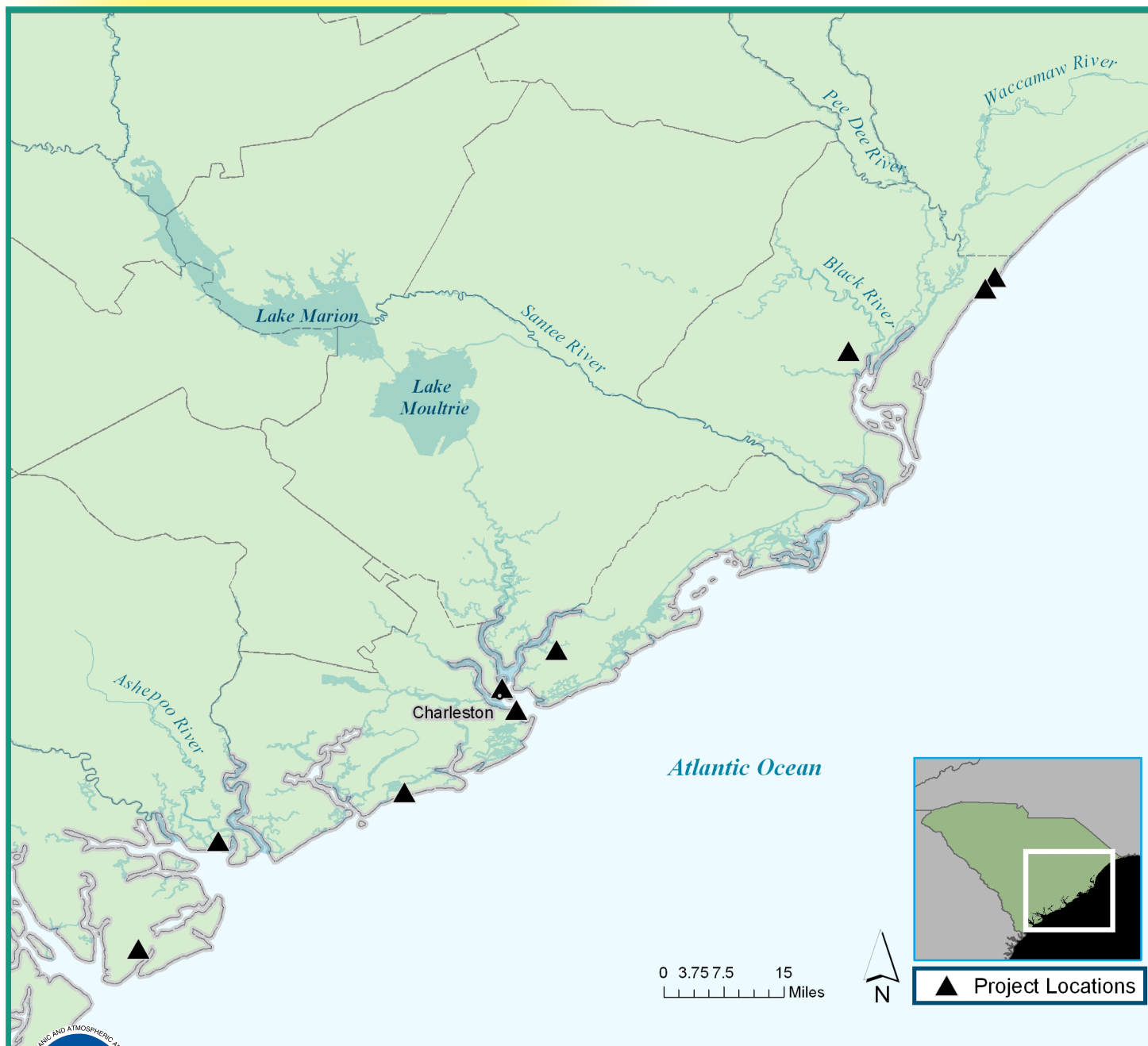
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www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/

Last updated December 2007

NOAA's Community-based Restoration Program (CRP)

State of South Carolina



SELECT COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATION PROJECTS:

**Evaluating Methods for
Oyster Reef Restoration,
Charleston**

**Sandpiper Pond Wetland
and Coastal Habitat
Restoration, Murrells Inlet**

**ACE Basin Shellfish
Restoration, Green Pond**

**Kiawah Island Restoration,
Kiawah Island**

**South Carolina Oyster
Reefs, Charleston**

**South Carolina Oyster
Shell Recycling,
Charleston**